

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 10104 150905Z
ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 IO-13 L-03
/085 W

-----127828 151519Z /47

R 150756Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5455
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 10104

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJ: US-USSR INDIAN OCEAN TALKS

REF: TEHRAN 09996

1. EVENING OF NOVEMBER 14 I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASK
SOVIET AMBASSADOR VINOGRADOV HOW AMBASSADOR MENDELEVICH'S
TALKS WITH THE IRANIANS WENT ON THE INDIAN OCEAN. VINO-
GRADOV TOLD ME THAT MENDELEVICH HAD GIVEN THE IRANIANS A
STATUS REPORT ON THE US-USSR TALKS WHICH AS HE DESCRIBED
IT WAS VERY MUCH ALONG THE LINES OF THE SAME REPORT WE HAD
GIVEN THE GOI ON THE BASIS OF STATE 238371 AND 241701. VINOGRADOV
SAID THAT INITIALLY HE HAD SENSED THAT THE IRANIANS WERE
WORRIED THAT THE U.S. AND USSR MAY BE WORKING OUT SOME KIND
OF ARRANGEMENT BEHIND IRAN'S BACK WHICH COULD PROVE TO BE
TO IRAN'S DISADVANTAGE. HE SAID ALSO THAT THE IRANIANS HAD
EXPRESSED SOME IRRITATION AT NOT BEING INCLUDED IN THE
TALKS AND/OR NOT BEING KEPT MORE CLOSELY INFORMED.
ACCORDING TO VINOGRADOV THE IRANIANS SEEMED MUCH MORE
RELAXED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SOVIET EXPLANATION AND
PLEASED THAT THE SOVIETS HAD TAKEN THE TROUBLE TO SEND THE
HEAD OF THEIR DELEGATION TO TEHRAN TO FILL THEM IN ON OUR
TALKS. HE SAID THAT MENDELEVICH HAD "DIPLOMATICALLY"
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 10104 150905Z

MADE THE POINT THAT THE INDIAN OCEAN WAS NOT THE EXCLUSIVE
PRESERVE OF THE LITTORAL STATES AND THAT MARITIME POWERS
SUCH AS THE U.S. AND USSR HAD LEGITIMATE RIGHTS IN CRUISING
THE AREA MAKING FRIENDLY MILITARY VESSEL PORT CALLS AND OTHER-
WISE INSURING THAT THE SEA LANES WERE OPEN AND SAFE FOR
COMMERCIAL PASSAGE. HE SAID THAT MEDELEVICH WENT ON TO
MAKE THE POINT THAT THE U.S. AND THE USSR WERE NOT AT THE STAGE

OF CONFRONTATION IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND THAT THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF THE U.S.-USSR TALKS WAS TO INSURE THAT NEITHER SIDE INCREASED ITS MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE AREA TO A CONFRONTATION LEVEL. MENDELEVICH ASSURED THE IRANIANS THAT THE US-USSR TALKS IN NO WAY IMPINGED ON IRANIAN INTEREST WHICH HE ACKNOWLEDGED WERE LEGITIMATE--IRAN BEING ONE OF THE INDIAN OCEAN'S LITTORAL STATES--AND SAID THAT THERE WAS NO INTENTION OF A DEAL BEING MADE BEHIND IRAN'S BACK. IN SUM, VINOGRADOV THOUGHT THAT THE TALKS HAD GONE VERY WELL AND THAT THEY HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY USEFUL AND TIMELY IN VIEW OF THE SHAH'S IMMINENT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, WHERE THE SUBJECT OF THE INDIAN OCEAN MIGHT COME UP.

2. EARLIER IN THE DAY I HAD ASKED ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER ZELLI HOW THE MENDELEVICH TALKS HAD GONE. ZELLI EVIDENCED SURPRISE THAT I WAS AWARE OF MENDELEVICH'S VISIT AND SAID THAT HE HAD NOT MENTIONED IT TO ME BECAUSE "YOU HAVE NOT CHOSEN TO TELL US ABOUT THE US-USSR TALKS." HE ADDED THAT HE COULD NOT SAY ANYTHING FURTHER ON THE SUBJECT. I REMONSTRATED THAT HIS WAS NOT TRUE AND THAT WE HAD IN FACT PROVIDED THE SHAH AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER WITH TWO STATUS REPORTS. ZELLI SAID THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE OF THIS.

COMMENT: THIS IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE LESS THAN PERFECT COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE COURT AND FOREIGN MINISTER AND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEHRAN 10104 150905Z

INDEED WITHIN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ITSELF. IT REFLECTS ALSO SUSPICIONS NEVER VERY FAR BELOW THE SURFACE IN IRANIAN MINDS ABOUT GREATER POWER MACHINATIONS TO THE EXTENT THAT WE CAN ALLEVIATE THESE SUSPICIONS BY KEEPING IRAN INFORMED ON MATTERS SUCH AS THIS, SO MUCH THE BETTER. IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF THE DEPARTMENT WOULD BEAR THIS IN MIND AS WE MOVE INTO THE NEXT ROUND OF OUR TALKS WITH THE SOVIETS ON THE INDIAN OCEAN.
MIKLOS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEBRIEFINGS, NEGOTIATIONS, NUCLEAR FREE ZONES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TEHRAN10104
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770422-0568
Format: TEL
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771155/aaaabvik.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b806c519-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 TEHRAN 9996
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 577674
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-USSR INDIAN OCEAN TALKS
TAGS: PFOR, PARM, US, UR, IR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b806c519-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009